

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 106235 TOSEC 040156

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: EVENING READING

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF TUESDAY'S EVENING READING:

1. PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS: AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ BEGAN A NEW ROUND OF PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON YESTERDAY. BOTH SIDES INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO TALK ABOUT ALL OF THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES AND TO PRESS FOR AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON THEM. THE PANAMANIANIANS SAID THEY WOULD DISCUSS THE FORMULA ON NEUTRALITY OUR SIDE PRESENTED AT THE MARCH MEETING. THEY STRESSED THE NEED FOR PROGRESS ON ISSUES INVOLVING THE PANAMA RAILROAD, THE BALBOA PORT FACILITIES, AND HOUSING AREAS. NO SCHEDULE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS HAS BEEN ADOPTED, BUT THE PANAMANIANIANS LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THEY WILL REMAIN IN WASHINGTON AS LONG AS PROGRESS SEEMS POSSIBLE.

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2. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARMS CONTROL. JOHN MCCONE CAME IN TODAY, AND DISCUSSED HIS RECENT SERVICE ON THE GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GAC), A STATUTORY BODY WHICH ADVISES THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY AND THE ACDA DIRECTOR ON "ARMS CONTROL, DISARMAMENT AND WORLD PEACE". THE 15-

MEMBER COMMITTEE PLAYED A USEFUL ROLE IN EARLIER YEARS, BUT IT FELL INTO DISUSE WHEN KISSINGER WAS SECRETARY. MCCONE RECOMMENDS THAT THE COMMITTEE BE REVITALIZED THROUGH THE APPOINTMENT OF A BROAD CROSS-SECTION OF ABLE MEMBERS AND A CHAIRMAN OF STATURE (HE MENTIONED BILL SCRANTON OR SOMEONE OF HIS CALIBRE).

3. HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE: ON OUR RECOMMENDATION, OUR REPRESENTATIVE ON THE WORLD BANK BOARD ABSTAINED THIS MORNING ON TWO PROPOSED LOANS TO ETHIOPIA (ONE FOR AN IRRIGATION PROJECT, THE OTHER FOR ROADS), EXPLAINING THAT OUR ACTION RESULTED FROM DETERIORATING HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THAT COUNTRY. WE ABSTAINED RATHER THAN VOTING NO TO LESSEN THE LIKELIHOOD OF REPRI-SALS AGAINST OUR EMBASSY AND BECAUSE THE LOANS TEND TO BENEFIT NEEDY PEOPLE. THE DIRECTOR REPRESENTING ETHIOPIA MADE NO COMMENT IN RESPONSE TO OUR STATEMENT, BUT THE DIRECTOR FOR COLOMBIA AND BRAZIL SAID HE DID NOT WELCOME THE INJECTION OF POLITICAL FACTORS IN THE BANK'S DELIBERATIONS. REACTIONS FROM THE HILL HAVE BEEN FAVORABLE. DON FRASER THOUGHT OUR ACTION WAS POSITIVE AND APPROPRIATE. WHEN FIRST INFORMED OF OUR ACTION, HENRY REUSS QUESTIONED WHY WE HAD NOT VOTED NO ON BOTH LOANS, BUT WHEN OUR REASONS WERE EXPLAINED TO HIM, HE WAS VERY SUPPORTIVE.

-- THE NEW PARAGUAYAN AMBASSADOR (LOPEZ ESCOBAR) CAME IN TODAY TO PRESENT A COPY OF HIS CREDENTIALS, AND I TOOK THE OCCASION TO COMMENT ON A RECENT ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT. THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION RECENTLY
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ASKED PARAGUAY FOR PERMISSION TO REPORT ON CONDITIONS THERE. PARAGUAY INITIALLY CALLED THE REQUEST "INOPPORTUNE". THEREAFTER, WE INDICATED TO PARAGUAY THAT OUR DECISION ON UPCOMING WORLD BANK LOANS TO PARAGUAY COULD BE AFFECTED BY WHETHER THEY AGREED TO INVITE THE COMMISSION. LAST FRIDAY THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT GAVE US A VERBAL COMMITMENT THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD BE INVITED. I CONGRATULATED THE NEW AMBASSADOR ON THIS DECISION, AS WELL AS ON THE FACT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY RELEASED BETWEEN 150 AND 200 POLITICAL PRISONERS, A DEVELOPMENT WHICH ALSO MAY BE THE RESULT OF OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY.

4. POSITIVE ACTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN PPRU AND TOGO. IN CONNECTION WITH RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PERU AND TOGO, YOU ASKED US TO BE SURE THAT FAVORABLE HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER NATIONS ARE ACKNOWLEDGED. WE HAVE COMMENDED THE AMNESTY IN PERU AS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT

WITH OUR WORKING LEVEL CONTACTS. IN TOGO, WHERE OUR AMBASSADOR WAS INFORMED OF THE PRISONER RELEASE DURING A MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, HE RESPONDED APPROPRIATELY. REGRETTABLY, HOWEVER, IN TOGO THERE HAVE BEEN SOME 20 POLITICALLY INSPIRED ARRESTS SINCE WE WERE INFORMED OF THE AMNESTY THERE.

5. THE HAVANA NEGOTIATIONS. DURING THE APRIL 25-27 TALKS, CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN THE OPENING OF "INTEREST SECTIONS" IN HAVANA AND WASHINGTON. OUR REPRESENTATIVES WILL MEET WITH THE CUBANS IN NEW YORK IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO LAY OUT OUR PROPOSAL FOR AN INTEREST SECTION IN HAVANA WHICH IS BASED ON OUR IRAQ EXPERIENCE. WE WILL SUGGEST STARTING WITH EIGHT U.S. PERSONNEL, TO BE HOUSED IN THE FORMER U.S. EMBASSY THERE AND TO PERFORM NORMAL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR FUNCTIONS.

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-- TODMAN BELIEVES THAT GOING TO HAVANA WAS WORTHWHILE BECAUSE WE DEMONSTRATED EQUALITY AND RECIPROCITY IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. CUBAN OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGED THIS GESTURE AND SAID THEY WOULD CONSIDER MAKING SOME GESTURES THEMSELVES, INCLUDING RELEASE OF AMERICAN PRISONERS, MORE LIBERAL EXIT PERMITS FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS, AND MORE VISITS BY DIVIDED CUBAN FAMILIES.

-- WE HAVE BRIEFED 18 SELECTED SENATORS AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ON THE CUBAN TALKS. THEIR GENERAL REACTION IS THAT WE HAVE STARTED A NECESSARY AND INEVITABLE PROCESS. WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, THEY FAVOR THE MEASURED AND RECIPROCAL APPROACH WE ARE FOLLOWING.

5. SALES TO CHINA. COOK INDUSTRIES HAS SOLD 50,000 BALES OF U.S. COTTON WORTH ABOUT \$17.5 MILLION TO CHINA. ALTHOUGH MODEST IN COMMERCIAL TERMS, THE SALE MAY BE SIGNIFICANT SINCE IT REPRESENTS A REVERSAL OF A POLICY AGAINST THE PURCHASE OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS THAT WAS APPARENTLY IN EFFECT THROUGH 1975 AND 1976. WE ALSO HAVE A REPORT FROM OUR LIAISON OFFICE IN PEKING THAT CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIRMED THAT AMERICAN GRAIN DEALERS ARE IN PEKING NEGOTIATING A SALE. CHRISTOPHER

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